

sons in this congregation this morning have probably cared little about the considerations already advanced, but have been aware of one stronger than all to those who have known tender, human, self-sacrificing love. You have more in heaven than you have on earth. What you value most is not upon this side, but upon the other. You long for the curtain to lift that you may recover the loved ones who have passed over. It is love that bridges the gulf of death. Love is greater than its earthly environment. Many persons feel this to be the only argument. Said a brother minister to me some time ago: "A lonely member of my church recently addressed me in these terms: 'I wish I could honestly say that I am glad to have lived. I cannot say it; life is hard and dreary. I could welcome the thought of death as an eternal sleep but for one thing. I have loved ones in heaven who will want to see me. My desire to live is the desire to love.'" A good argument this.

"Alas for him who never sees  
The stars shine thru his cypress trees!  
Who, hopeless, lays his dead away,  
Nor looks to see the breaking day  
Across the mournful marbles play!  
Who hath not learned, in hours of faith,  
The truth to flesh and sense unknown,  
That Life is ever lord of Death,  
And Love can never lose its own!"

What a sorry business life is, what mockery all our hopes for our little ones, what a dream is heroic self-devotion, except that all these things have value by and by, that not one thought or effort is wasted, and that in the realms of the blest we meet again all that we have valued most on this side—all that has added depth and richness to our troubled earthly experience.—R. J. Campbell.

#### Unseen Doorkeepers

Sometimes we see the angel who opens to us the door of opportunity, but more often we do not see him. Sometimes God makes very plain to us the leading of His providence, but far more often things simply seem to happen "of their own accord."

Yet nothing happens of its own accord. No gate opens without the gate-opener. If any blessing has come into your life, you may be sure that some one put it there. If you hear any call, there is a mouth behind the voice. Not at haphazard has any opening of your life come to you; some hand has taken down the bars, some arm has pushed back the doors.

The cloud of witnesses are more than witnesses; they are preparers, they are assistants. Your dead father is still helping you, if you will let him; your dead mother is still lifting your burdens. The angels are God's ministers sent on his errands, and what errand more impressing than to aid God's children?

When next you approach some closed door, whether it be closed by sickness or poverty or former failure, or what not, do not see the door, do not think of it, but think only

of the unseen angel waiting beside it. And remember it is only by following the angels you see that you can obtain the good offices of the angels you do not see.—Amos R. Wells.

#### Losing Touch With God

Individuals and churches do sometimes lose God out of their life. They once knew him and enjoyed sweet fellowship with him every day. The evidences of his presence were with them in the victories which they achieved and the fruits of their labors. The joy of the Lord and the peace of God filled their souls. But a change has taken place.

In some cases it is very easy to tell how this all happened. Some great sin committed at a definite time grieved the Spirit of God, and from that hour they have walked in darkness. In other cases the cause is not so clear. Men lose the joys of God's salvation without knowing exactly when or where or how. They are not conscious of any particular sin whereby they grieved him. But a change has taken place, and they are no longer the men of God they once were. Like Samson when shorn of his locks, they have to be awakened by some emergency to find out what has happened. It is said that "Samson wist not that the Lord had departed from him." He thought he was as mighty as ever. But when he rose up to shake himself and go out against his enemies he discovered that his power was gone. He was weak as other men.

When the spirit of God departs from a soul or a church the life is gone out also. Other things amount to little. What are wealth and culture and refinement and music and art in the church without God? Good as these things are, they are only accessories. It is possible for us to give the first place to these things and give the second place to God. Men may become devoted to the church as an organization, to the Bible as literature, to worship as an entertainment. Then God is forgotten. In such a church prayer is an empty form, preaching is sounding brass, and worship is a mere performance. Sinners are not converted, the kingdom of God is not enlarged, religious efforts are unavailing. Then the inquiry, "What is the matter with the church?" is heard on every side. One says: "Nothing is the matter. It never was in better condition. I see no cause for complaint. I do not know how the church could be improved." Another says: "The trouble is in the polity of the church. Give us a change here and there, and the cause will prosper as in former days." Another believes that the difficulty is to be found in the kind of preaching they hear. It is not sufficiently eloquent, learned or attractive. Still another points to the worldly lives of some of the members as the cause of all the trouble.

The danger in that mutual criminations and recriminations will take the place of prayer and holy living. Brotherly kindness goes out and bitterness comes in. The mem-

bers have no confidence in one another. Perhaps there is no room for confidence, but each one thinks his neighbor is to blame, and few, if any, think to look in their own hearts for the cause of the trouble. They know not that the Lord has departed from them. The great need is that each one shall come back to God. Enter into the secret place of the Most High and seek a renewal of spiritual life.

The great need of the churches and of the country today is a closer walk with God. Methods and machinery are not useless, but without God they avail nothing. They are only useful when God is in them and in the hearts of His people. When weakness and fruitlessness begin to be manifest it is a sure sign that the people have lost touch with God. It is needless to inquire about other troubles. This one is sufficient to account for all our failures. Begin in the right place. When the heart is right with God it will be easy to make all other adjustments. All other things will fall into place readily. Many are singing, "Nearer, my God, to Thee." It is well to sing it, but so long as we come no nearer to him the song will not avail much. How long shall we sing and continue to follow him afar off?—Christian Advocate.

## Missions

#### Report of the Chicago Church Fund

Receipts previously reported,	\$495 01
Mrs. E. L. Homer, Brighton, Ind.,	5 00
H. C. Williams, Lansdale, Pa.,	1 00
Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Wine, Aurelia, Iowa,	5 00
George Barnhart, Hoover, Ind.,	5 00
Brethren Sunday school, Allentown, Pa.,	5 00
	\$516.01

Let all remember that Nov. 24 or Thanksgiving day is the time appointed to raise the money for the Chicago church. Let us all make one strong pull together and then be done with this particular work for a time. After we place a mortgage on the property there will be no need for money on that account for a few years. J. C. CASSEL, Sec.

#### October Report of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church

J. S. C. Spickerman, Maryville, Mo.,	30
A brother, Goblesville, Ind.,	1 00
National S. S. C. E.,	20 00
Indiana State Conference,	14 00
Mary K. Fair, Harvey, Neb.,	1 00
A sister,	10
C. B. Wilson, Sergeantsville, N. J.,	1 00
N. C. Nielsen, Herington, Kan.,	3 00
S. S. C. E., Philadelphia, Pa.,	1 00
A sister, Columbus, O.,	35
	\$41 75

#### WASHINGTON FUND

Eld. J. L. Bowman, Vinco, Pa.,	\$1 00
A. B. Altoona,	1 00
Sister Hugett per J. M. Tombaugh,	1 00
	\$3 00

#### CHICAGO FUND

Y. P. S. C. E., Godfrey, Kan.,	\$2 79
A sister, Lanark, Ill.,	10 00
Brethren church, Auburn, Ill.,	8 00
Sister Heft, Oakville, Ind.,	1 00